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**Issue 120**  
**July 2018**

*the magazine for  
defence equipment  
and support*



**First UK F-35B fighter jets  
touch down on British soil**

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# Foreword

I am delighted to be able to celebrate another major DE&S success this month. I was at the CEO Conference on F-35B in the United States when the first F-35B fighter jets arrived

**"I could not be prouder of all those involved in bringing the F-35 programme to this stage after almost two decades of hard work"**



By Sir Simon Bollom, CEO

And I am delighted to see us continue to do good work in the community, with DE&S graduates helping at a farm that provides vocational and employment training opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism, and RAF engineers from DE&S helping inspire hundreds of school children at the 'Inspiring the Next Generation' event at Aerospace Bristol.

Finally, I must mention Kevin Cooper from DE&S' DM Gosport site, who travelled 250 miles to re-unite a Royal Naval Ships Ensign with a Second World War veteran who was on board the vessel when it was sunk. This kind act clearly meant a lot to Frank and I want to thank you for your service to DE&S and wish you the very best in your retirement.

at RAF Marham in what was a historic moment for the RAF and DE&S.

Having had close involvement with the F-35 programme over a number of years, I would have loved to have been there to share this moment in history. I could not be prouder of all those involved in bringing the F-35 programme to this stage after almost two decades of hard work.

Elsewhere, I must congratulate the DE&S staff who have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. It is a reflection of your professional dedication and I am very proud to have you working for our organisation.

In other business, the first student to fly the Juno helicopter – part of DE&S' £1.1 billion upgraded pilot training fleet – declared it a "huge step forward" in preparing trainee pilots for the front line.

And we have agreed a contract to convert almost 400 trucks into battle-critical vehicles that transport ammunition and vital supplies into live operations, further strengthening the logistics backbone of the British Army.

On the sporting front, the MOD football team, whose squad includes a remarkable 13 players from DE&S, won the Civil Service's annual cup competition for the first time. Great result and a good portent for the rest of the summer, I hope!



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## Simon Dakin, Director ISTAR, talks to Desider about his career, improving delivery for customers and his team's role in the response to the Salisbury chemical incident earlier this year



As Director ISTAR – Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance – I have a very diverse and fascinating portfolio; the trouble is, a lot of it is highly classified and I'm not able to tell you about it!

As well as covering Special Projects for our unique and special user community (including force protection, intelligence collection, surveillance and electronic warfare), I'm also responsible for areas you may not necessarily expect. Military air traffic management, air command and control systems, and ground based air defence all fall under my remit, as do windfarms.

Another large component of the ISTAR Operating Centre is the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear team, who provide detection and protection equipment. I envisaged the equipment we buy being used in overseas warzones, I never imagined it being used on the UK mainland. Yet that's exactly what happened earlier this year with the chemical incident in Salisbury.

The response from my team to the incident was hugely impressive and I'm proud of the way we

worked to assist the investigation and clean-up operation. Having said that, I'm consistently impressed by the commitment shown by all our people. I think that seeing your hard work being put into practice and knowing you're making a personal contribution to our national security is really motivating and encourages everyone to go that extra mile. It certainly does for me.

I started my career with DE&S around 25 years ago, and have been at Abbey Wood since the day the site opened in 1996, but before that I was a scientist. I studied for my PhD in Nuclear Physics based at an international research laboratory in the Alps and then joined the MOD to do mathematical modelling for the special weapons programme. As much as I enjoyed being a research scientist, I found I was becoming more and more specialised and there were very few people in the world I could talk to about my research!

It was the fascinating nature of defence procurement, in particular the wide range of technical, commercial and financial challenges we're faced with every

**DE&S will only continue to improve and become an even more attractive place to work in future**

day, that attracted me to DE&S. And I can honestly say that since joining I've never contemplated leaving or going anywhere else.

In my opinion, DE&S will only continue to improve and become an even more attractive place to work in future. The benefits we're starting to see as we embed our new ways of working across the organisation are making a huge difference to how we operate.

The combination of standing up our functional model, alongside the roll-out of toolkits such as the P3M tool suite, has already allowed us to take greater ownership of our schedules and drive enhanced performance through our suppliers.

Looking ahead, my priorities for the coming year are to continue embedding the transformation changes, including our toolkits and deployment, across the Operating Centre and to continue developing our people so that they can achieve their potential. Ultimately, the aim of this is to ensure we can keep delivering on our promises to our customers and providing the necessary equipment and support of which I'm so proud.

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# 'Game-changing' F-35B Lightning fighter jets arrive in UK

Pictured: An exclusive image of all four F-35B Lightning jets arriving at RAF Marham (Picture by Andrew Linnett)

The first of Britain's next-generation fighter jets have arrived home, marking a historic moment for DE&S, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

The F-35B Lightning aircraft arrived at RAF Marham at 8.15pm on June 6, having made their way across the Atlantic from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina earlier that day.

The new cutting-edge aircraft were flown by British pilots of the newly-reformed 617 Squadron, which was immortalised by the famous Dambusters.

The jets, which arrived two

months ahead of schedule, landed in front of a packed media gallery, while VIPs, DE&S, RAF, Royal Navy, and industry looked on. Outside the base plane enthusiasts and local residents strained to catch a glimpse of the state-of-the-art aircraft.

For DE&S, the arrival signifies the culmination of almost two decades of programme delivery.

Mark Thornton, Head Lightning Delivery Team at DE&S, said: "A big thank you to the entire Lightning team and our industry partners for getting us to where we are today. We have delivered an aircraft that the UK can be

truly proud of. It will provide our armed forces with outstanding capabilities for decades to come."

Around £550 million is being invested in RAF Marham as part of a major change programme to get the base ready to house the new jets. The base has seen an upgrade in facilities, resurfaced runways and the addition of new landing pads to accommodate the jet's ability to land vertically.

The F-35B Lightning is the first to combine radar-evading stealth technology with supersonic speeds and the ability to conduct short take-offs and vertical landings.

It will be jointly operated by

the RAF and the Royal Navy and can operate from land and sea, forming a vital part of 'carrier strike' – the use of the aircraft from Britain's new Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers.

Five more jets are due to arrive in Britain later this year, and are part of an overall plan to procure 138 aircraft.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said: "These formidable fighters are a national statement of our intent to protect ourselves and our allies from intensifying threats across the world."



Bonus content on our  
YouTube channel









## Signing Ceremony Milestone

Lieutenant General Paul Jaques, Chief of Materiel (Land), has signed the Command Infrastructure Delivery Plan (CIDP) on behalf of DE&S.

Lt Gen Jaques signed the agreement jointly alongside Graham Dalton, Chief Executive of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), on May 9.

As of April 1 DE&S assumed control of infrastructure funding for its sites from DIO. The signing of the CIDP with an agreed programme of works for this financial year marks a major milestone in this process.

It provides a suite of documents agreeing the scope of infrastructure services and how the organisations will work together to deliver programmes of work more efficiently.

The DE&S Infra Estates team will work with DIO to assess progress within a new set of agreed governance arrangements between the two organisations. These new arrangements form a key part of ensuring the delegated infrastructure funding is effectively managed during this transition year.

Further work is ongoing within the business to ensure all DE&S sites are supported during the transition year and in developing the processes to target funding as necessary.

## DE&S Chairman visits Govan shipyard

Paul Skinner CBE, Chairman of the DE&S Board, visited BAE Systems' Govan shipyard to meet with DE&S colleagues and view progress on the Type 26 frigates and Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

During the visit, Mr Skinner, accompanied by DE&S Board Non-Executive Director Iain Lanaghan, met with the DE&S project team, who provided an update on both programmes.

The visit included a tour of the site to view the first fully constructed Type 26 units of the first of class, HMS Glasgow, in the Ship Build Outfit Hall. They also

boarded HMS Trent, the third of the new batch of 2 River Class OPVs for a tour of the ship.

Mr Skinner said: "To play our governance role effectively it is important that DE&S board members get a first-hand impression of the key programmes in which we are involved. This visit to Govan achieved that objective in providing an opportunity to understand the challenges the OPV programme has faced as a precursor to the much bigger Type 26 build programme to follow."

## Inspiring the next generation

RAF engineers from DE&S took part in an event aimed at inspiring hundreds of school children to take an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The RAF event at Aerospace Bristol attracted more than 300 school children, who took part in a range of activities, including coding and building rocket cars.

DE&S engineers from MOD Abbey Wood assisted pupils who were being guided by RAF Youth and the STEM Team, alongside their partners from Hands on Science.

Air Marshal Julian Young, Chief of Materiel (Air) at DE&S and the Defence Engineering

Champion, said: "In 2018, both the year of the RAF's Centenary and the Year of Engineering, DE&S is proud to join with our RAF colleagues to encourage our local young people from Bristol to take an interest in the exciting and rewarding field of Engineering.

"Creative thinking and problem solving in technical matters are key to our country's future, and as a responsible employer we have a duty to help address the skills shortfall in engineering across the UK."







Michael Vallance (BAE Systems)

The ongoing redevelopment of BAE Systems' Barrow site, featuring the huge new Central Yard Facility (centre left), where phases of construction for the Dreadnought class will take place, is pictured from a Cessna light aircraft. HMS Audacious can be seen in the dock.

## Historic transatlantic flight this month

A new Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS) ordered by DE&S for the Royal Air Force will fly non-stop from the USA to RAF Fairford in the UK this month.

The UK is the lead customer for the next-generation aircraft, which will be known as the Protector RG Mk 1 when it enters service in the early 2020's.

Operated at all times by a fully qualified pilot, it is capable of supporting an array of homeland defence tasks, including military aid to civil authorities – for example search and rescue, disaster monitoring or flood prevention activities.

The flight from North Dakota to Fairford on July 11 is likely to take more than 20 hours and will be the first across the Atlantic by a Medium Altitude RPAS.

Minister for Defence Procurement, Guto Bebb, said: "Protector's first arrival in the UK is an exciting milestone in our mission to get the most advanced equipment to combat the intensifying threats that we face."



## Autonomous Warrior launched

DE&S and the British Army launched the game-changing Autonomous Warrior (Land) experiment at the RUSI Land Warfare conference.

Autonomous Warrior, the 2018 **Army Warfighting Experiment**, will see British and American soldiers test and evaluate the effectiveness of a range of prototype unmanned aerial and ground vehicles, with a clear focus on reducing danger to troops during combat or other hazardous environments.

The soldiers will work alongside the DE&S Technology Office and Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Autonomous 'Last

Mile' Resupply programme.

Bringing new technologies like robotics into service can be a major business challenge and Autonomous Warrior will provide valuable insight on these wider issues.

Heather Goldstraw, head of DE&S Tech Office, said: "AWE18 is an exemplar of how we deliver innovation. Whilst it shows us what these technologies can do for us, it is also intended to show us what we need to do to ourselves if we are to be able to adopt them into service."

The four-week exercise is set to launch on November 12.







Pictured: clockwise from top left, Graham Russell, Patricia Fernon, Brigadier Simon Hamilton, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Sweeting and Captain Mike Knott RN

# DE&S employees celebrate Queen's birthday in style

Pictures: Jack Eckerlesley

Employees from across the organisation have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. They tell Desider how they found out and what it means to them

**Air Vice Marshal Graham Russell – Director Helicopters at DE&S – Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (CB)**

"I was in the office two days before the official announcement when I received a call from the Chief of the Air Staff congratulating me on the award of a CB in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. It was probably the first time in years I have been completely lost for words.

"A CB is an award which recognises dedicated service and achievement over a long period, so I was therefore honoured to receive this accolade. I was also humbled when I considered that my success has been, in no small part, down to the people who have worked hard with or for me. I hope that they are also able to take pleasure in this award.

"The only downside is that my wife has now demanded an outrageously expensive hat – allegedly a 'must' for all Buckingham Palace engagements!"

**Brigadier Simon Hamilton – DE&S Head of Vehicle Support Team – CBE**

"It came as a complete and very pleasant surprise. I only found out at the very last minute from a member of the Senior Leadership Group. These type of awards, in my personal opinion, are never the reflection of a single individual, but are instead a reflection of the collective endeavour of a determined and focused team; in this case 101 Logistic Brigade and its 8,500 soldiers supporting UK's War-fighting Division."

**I must congratulate the DE&S staff who have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. It is a reflection of your professional dedication and I am very proud to have you working for our organisation**

Sir Simon Bollom,  
DE&S CEO

**Captain Mike Knott - DE&S Ships Portfolio Office – CBE**

"My wife and I were thrilled to receive a letter from Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC, the First Sea Lord, informing us that the Queen had graciously appointed me CBE. To say we were stunned, but nonetheless delighted, would be a massive understatement. Being appointed CBE is a huge honour and I am particularly thankful for the personal support I had from a great team, both above and below me, as Captain Navy Plans in the MOD. I am particularly thrilled to be able to take my family to Buckingham Palace for the investiture and to celebrate this immense honour."

**Lieutenant Colonel Craig Sweeting – DE&S Puma 2 Gazelle project team manager – OBE**

"I had absolutely no idea that I had been nominated, so it came as a complete surprise. I told my wife and children immediately and then struggled to keep it a secret until the day of announcement, when I was overwhelmed by the many generous congratulations. The award is entirely down to the skill and hard work of the personnel at the Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit, which I was privileged to command."

**Mark Nileshwar – DE&S Marshall team leader (awarded for previous role in Special Projects) – OBE**

"Having had to keep quiet for five weeks since I got my sounding letter, I can now pass on my sincere thanks to those kind enough to nominate me

for this honour. I can also now publicly recognise and pass on a huge amount of the credit to the hundreds of people who have been part of the Special Projects team over the last seven years, whose outstanding, dedicated and tireless work has been instrumental in the team's achievements and made a real difference to national security. I will be collecting this humbling honour on their behalf."

**Patricia Fernon – DE&S deputy head Commercial (Land) – OBE**

"I was delighted and felt very humble to be recognised to receive such an award. This honour is the pinnacle of my career and recognises my efforts in procuring equipment for our armed forces. I love my job, the people I work with and the satisfaction of making a difference in supporting our armed forces."

## Also recognised

**Gillian Garlington – Senior Commercial Officer Vehicle Support Team (Land) – now retired - MBE**

**Warrant Officer Bob Levesley, DE&S Apache project team – Meritorious Service Medal**

**Squadron Leader James Brooks, MA to Director Helicopters at DE&S – Deputy Commanders' Commendation**

**Flight Lieutenant Gary Hobson, DE&S Puma 2 Gazelle project team – Air Officer Commanding (AOC) 1 Group Commendation**

# First trainee pilot gets airborne in Juno helicopter

Pictured: Lieutenant Chris Suckling RN with Flight Lieutenant Jamie Johnson before the first flight  
Picture: Ian Forshaw, MOD Crown Copyright



The first student to fly the Juno helicopter has said the new aircraft marks a “huge step forward” in preparing trainee pilots for the front line.

Flight Lieutenant Jamie Johnson took to the skies in the new helicopter from RAF Shawbury earlier this year, marking an important milestone in training future aircrew in helicopter operations.

The Airbus H-135 Juno is the latest element of the DE&S-procured £1.1 billion UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) and benefits from a touchscreen glass cockpit and an advanced avionics suite – technology that will ease the transition of students progressing to front line operational helicopters.

The UKMFTS Project Team placed a contract in May 2008 with Ascent Flight Training to design, deliver and manage the full

**The Juno is a huge step forward due to its similarity to the technology of front line aircraft**

Flight Lieutenant Jamie Johnson, first trainee pilot to fly Juno

range of military flight training for all three Services until 2033. The Rotary Wing Element of the programme was contracted in May 2016.

The key programme objectives are to reduce the capability gap between training and front line platforms, optimise time spent in training and reduce the overall cost to Defence.

UKMFTS Project Team Head, Commodore Tom Manson, said: “This milestone marks the culmination of four years of rapid delivery for the DE&S, 22Gp and Ascent Partnership on Rotary Wing. A significant increase in training capability utilising state of the art aircraft will ensure delivery of our future pilots for the RAF, Navy and Army remains in step with the increasing complexity of front line helicopters.”

Rotary Wing training builds on the student’s skills and flying

experience gained through Elementary Flying Training at RAF Cranwell. Students are introduced to the theory of helicopter flight before progressing to live flying. The use of synthetic training reduces the cost whilst maintaining a high level of skill and experience. After completion, the students transition into more specific training before moving to their respective Operational Conversion Units.

Flight Lieutenant Jamie Johnson said: “It is a privilege to be the first trainee pilot to fly in the new Juno helicopter here at RAF Shawbury. Having flown both previous helicopters, the Squirrel and Griffin, the Juno is a huge step forward due to its similarity to the technology of front line aircraft; I look forward to learning more on it.”





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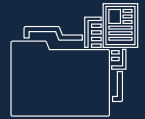
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# On variety, BMX racing and the value of information

**Mike Moate is the Market Intelligence Lead for Land Equipment. His job is to give DE&S teams in the Land domain the market information they need to help them make informed procurement decisions**

## **What does your role involve?**

Enabling people to make better informed procurement decisions through the provision of bespoke supplier intelligence briefs and market analysis reports. My customer base ranges from project teams and commercial officers, right through to the senior leadership team. Our supplier intelligence briefs enable people to view the health and strategic direction of suppliers with ease, and this allows people to compare their relative strengths and weaknesses. Our market analysis reports are created through multiple sources and by attending various industry events, helping to map out the size of potential markets for new projects. Our outputs can be hugely useful to both the project and commercial teams, and forms part of 'Pre-Market Engagement'.

## **What about your role is exciting, rewarding or interesting?**

What I most enjoy is that I never have the same week twice. For example, last week I spent Monday in London at MOD Main Building, as well as meeting with the Department for International Trade. On Tuesday I attended the Future Armoured Vehicles Weapons Systems conference, and then headed over to Olympia on Wednesday afternoon for a Special Projects task; meanwhile my team were assisting at the Counter Terror Fleet Vehicles Industry Day. I was then in Bristol on Thursday, attending a calibration panel as a function development officer. On Friday I sorted through the Intelligence that I'd gathered

during the week, applying it to various reports.

## **How important to you is teamwork?**

Teamwork is hugely important to me, and it needs to be in this role, as I manage a small specialist team, delivering over 150 reports per year. The tempo of the requests we receive means the team often needs to be dispersed, covering conferences, expos and supplier visits simultaneously, as well as working closely with other government departments to share best practice. Without teamwork, and good internal communications, I'm pretty sure deadlines would quickly be missed, and ultimately the team would self-combust!

## **What is your view on transformation?**

I'm cautiously optimistic, but I believe we need to remain focused on the end result rather than moaning about what isn't quite right at a particular point in time. The key to ensuring transformation is successful is to fully support the new entrants to DE&S, and to ensure they understand the future direction of the organisation.

## **Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?**

After many years spent working within the private sector for the likes of M&S and Barclays, I decided that I needed a new challenge and joined DE&S, as a risk manager. Initially, I found life difficult to adjust to, especially after having previously managed teams of 100 plus people across widely varying roles. I can still

remember my (ex-Royal Marine) dad saying I'd get frustrated but I truly believe that I've now got one of the most rewarding jobs within the organisation.

## **What do you most enjoy about your job?**

Really making a difference through the reports that my team supply. For example, when the Special Projects team arranged for their 'Robot-Wars' event deep in Arizona for the new bomb disposal robot, I was conscious it was my team that had supplied the initial 'market view' and, for the event itself, we had provided supplier briefs on each of the contenders. This meant the leadership team were able to make evidence-based decisions on the financial viability and pedigree of each of the companies involved.

## **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

In a good way, I have very little spare time nowadays, as I have two young children waiting for me at home, therefore my home life can be challenging, but also hugely rewarding.

## **What might surprise people about you?**

I am Batman (according to my eldest son). Seriously, I was once a BMX racing champion (back in the day obviously!), which certainly helped to over-develop my competitive spirit.





Pictured: Lee Kyte stands in front of HMS Trenchant after it surfaced through the ice during ICEX 18

# Lee volunteers for trip he will never forget

Lee Kyte has become the **first UK civil servant** to fully participate in ICEX – a series of challenging submarine trials in the freezing Arctic Circle. He told Desider editor Tom Morris about his extraordinary experience

“It was absolutely mind-blowing”, Lee Kyte tells me with genuine wide-eyed glee.

Lee is referring to the moment he was flown by helicopter to the spot HMS Trenchant had surfaced through two-feet thick ice as part of ICEX 18 – a series of demanding submarine trials held in the frigid climate of the Arctic Circle earlier this year.

The 41-year-old volunteered for the exercise after working alongside the US Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory (ASL), which coordinates the ICEX 18 drills, to fit equipment to HMS Trenchant.

“I felt I had a unique set of skills which would be of use to them so I offered my services and, after discussions with my team leader, I was delighted to be given permission to attend”, Lee said.

“Being there meant I was able to see the equipment I was responsible for on the submarine and talk with ship's staff about its performance. They were really pleased, so that was a very proud moment for me.”

HMS Trenchant joined US submarines USS Connecticut and USS Hartford for the drills, which are vital in maintaining the operational readiness of the Royal Navy's submarine fleet and the security of the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans.

By taking part in ICEX 18, Lee, a member of the Combat Systems team within the Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA) at MOD Abbey Wood, became the first UK Civil Servant to do so.

Based at Prudhoe Bay in Alaska, the Operations

Support Base for ICEX 18, Lee's primary role during the five-week exercise was to act as liaison between the UK (Royal Navy and the SDA/DE&S) but supported the ASL in whatever capacity it needed.

This included driving forklift trucks, greeting new arrivals to Prudhoe Bay or stocking the hangar store with everything from food to snow mobiles.

He had only been there three days when he found himself digging out a minibus from a snowdrift having been caught in a blizzard.

“I have never been so cold in my life, it was -30°C and there was a 30mph wind (wind-chill was nearer -47°C) and there I was on an ice road trying desperately to get our vehicle out”, he said.

“Prudhoe Bay has a couple of hotels for the oil workers, but there are no permanent residents, the conditions are just too harsh. But it was an amazing place and the sunsets were incredible.”

Lee, a former lorry driver, was also given the opportunity to drive a 20-tonne truck 400 miles along the famous Dalton Highway – one of the most dangerous roads in the world.

He said: “I was a lorry driver but aged 33 I joined DE&S in 2010 as an apprentice and it was the best decision I ever made – the opportunities I have had are unbelievable. Being given the chance to take part in ICEX 18 is an experience I will never forget.”

Bonus content at  
[www.des.mod.uk](http://www.des.mod.uk)



# Converted trucks to strengthen logistics backbone of British Army

Pictured: An Enhanced Palletised Load System (EPLS) in convoy in Helmand Province, Afghanistan (2012).



A £65 million contract has been agreed to convert almost 400 15-tonne trucks into battle critical vehicles that transport ammunition and vital supplies quickly into live operations.

Fitting the crane-like Enhanced Palletised Load System (EPLS) allows a vehicle to load up to 15 tonnes of supplies – on pallets or in ISO containers – including ammunition, water, food and bulk medical supplies in less than 90 seconds.

Once at their destination, the pallets, or ISO containers, can be quickly offloaded and re-loaded with spent material before leaving. This results in brigades in forward operating zones receiving vital supplies at speed and fewer trucks being at risk of attack.

The vehicles will further strengthen the logistics backbone of the British Army.

The contract, secured by the DE&S Operational Support Vehicle Programme (OSVP) team, will see a total of 382 15-tonne

**This contract is the result of a momentous team effort; it will provide a critical uplift in terms of logistic capability for the British Army**

Colonel Phil Prosser, DE&S Operational Support Vehicle Portfolio head

support vehicles converted and fitted with EPLS.

That number of vehicles includes 33 winterised/waterproof versions, which will add further capability to operations undertaken by the Royal Marines.

EPLS has a number of advantages over the demountable rack offload and pickup system, that is also in use by the British Army.

It is equipped with a container handling unit, which means that it can load an ISO container directly, rather than the container being put on a flat rack first. It can also be armoured, and offers the driver improved safety and situational awareness.

Colonel Phil Prosser, OSVP head at DE&S, said: “This contract is the result of a momentous team effort; it will provide a critical uplift in terms of logistic capability for the British Army. Throughout the process we have worked closely with the Australian Army, who have procured similar vehicles. We have learnt from our

own experience with EPLS Mk1 and 2, as well as the Australian experience, to make sure these vehicles are the best the market can offer.”

The contract has been awarded to MTB UK in Manchester, who will start to strip and rebuild the support vehicles next month before fitting them with EPLS. The award has created 25 jobs in the company and sustained a further 11 positions.

In addition, Babcock will be inspecting the vehicles before they are sent to Manchester to ensure they are of the correct standard and will return to Babcock for acceptance testing.

The first 40 standard vehicles are due to be delivered by early 2019, with the final vehicles entering service by end of March, 2021.



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# 'Beating heart' of HMS Prince of Wales declared to be in perfect working order

Pictured: HMS Prince of Wales in Rosyth in May (Picture by Andrew Linnett)

A compartment described as the beating heart of the HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier has been handed over to her crew after being signed off by the DE&S Delivery Acceptance Team (DAT).

If the Bridge of a ship is considered its eyes, and the Operations room its brain, there is no doubt that the Ship's Control Centre (SCC) is the beating heart.

It is from the SCC that all machinery, ranging from the integrated full electric propulsion system to waste management, is controlled by a team of marine engineers who are likely to man the compartment 24 hours a day, every day, until she de-commissions.

In a war-fighting scenario, the SCC becomes Headquarters for the Internal Battle, where all the information from across the

ship, be it fire, flood or casualty, is reported, and priorities are set on where to send repair teams, all under the leadership of the Internal Battle Controller.

Last month, Brian Taylor and Rob Davie, of the Prince of Wales DAT team based at Rosyth, declared the SCC fit for purpose, allowing the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) to sign it over to the Royal Navy 18 months ahead of the ship's planned delivery date.

The Queen Elizabeth Class carriers comprise more than 3,000 compartments. The DE&S DAT team have the responsibility for ensuring that all are built to specification and fit for purpose.

Compartments range from cabins, fuel and fresh water tanks and void spaces to machinery spaces, magazines, the bridge and the SCC at the other end of the spectrum of complexity.

Mark Dannatt, Head of Acquisition Queen Elizabeth Class at DE&S, said: "I am delighted that we have started to accept complex compartments at this stage of the build programme and am looking forward to acceptance of the first engine space in the near future."

Sterry Matthews, ACA Production Manager, the lead for this area of the ship, said: "This compartment was a challenge, but teamwork and excellent cooperation between all ACA partners made this a resounding success. Compartments are normally handed over after sea trials, so to achieve this at such an early stage, to the high quality and specification required by the Royal Navy, is a very significant milestone for the team."









# DE&S and SDA employees go the extra mile

Following the recent national Volunteers' Week, six employees tell Desider the reward they get out of giving their time to good causes

**i** DE&S offers flexible working to all its employees, including paid special leave for public duties such as charitable acts and volunteering

**Ross Hill - Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Coordinator (Joint Enablers)**

"I am a visitor engagement volunteer and tour guide at The Donkey Sanctuary. I am usually the first person visitors see on site, greeting them and directing them. Delivering tours means I have to know the history of the organisation and what we do around the world. For me, the opportunity to volunteer has added value and purpose to my life; not only helping animals in need but also helping those who want to help and learn more but don't know where to start. I have widened my personal knowledge by attending additional training events in my own time and enjoy sharing that knowledge with visitors. When a visitor smiles and compliments the Sanctuary or when a donkey trustingly puts his head on my shoulder – I feel like a million dollars."



**Jenny Smith – Project Manager, DE&S Salvage and Marine Operations team**

"I volunteer with The Tall Ships Youth Trust, and have done so since the age of 16. It's the UK's oldest and largest sail training charity, offering young people from all walks of life unique, physically and mentally challenging experiences at sea with the aim of developing their long-term life skills, including team working, confidence and problem-solving. In that time I have sailed 5,000 nautical miles, been seasick for 150 hours and had the pleasure of working with around 300 hugely diverse young people. When I first started volunteering it was about improving my leadership and communication skills, while having amazing adventures sailing all over the world. Nowadays I am motivated by working with young people and I want to help them have the same amazing adventures I did while building essential life skills."



**Vanessa Larkham – DE&S Corporate Operations**

“I have been volunteering with Age UK for the last 12 months. I signed up as a ‘befriender’ as part of their combat loneliness campaign. This involves being paired with a vulnerable adult in the community and visiting them once a week. The person I visit has early onset dementia and this makes him quite isolated. His wife has given up work to care for him and in the evenings I visit after work she has some time to herself to attend a gym class or see a friend. It’s an opportunity for him to feel connected to the outside world and have a conversation with someone who isn’t his carer. I’d recommend this sort of volunteering to anyone at DE&S – it’s flexible and only requires a relatively little amount of time to make a big impact on someone’s life. I have found it rewarding and gaining an insight into the difficulties of the lives that people in your community lead certainly puts other things that worry you in life into perspective.”



**Nigel Whitfield – Submarine Delivery Agency**

“I volunteer at the Keynsham Open Award Centre (KOAC), which gives all young people in the Bath and North East Somerset area access to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme – the world’s leading youth achievement award. As part of the Award, this year, in 2017/18, our participants at KAOC will have walked, between them, more than 1,200km and contributed over 420 hours of voluntary activity into their local community making our area a better place to live in. In support, my team and I have each given 75 hours of teaching time and 21 days of support to the actual DofE expeditions. I have been the expedition supervisor for KOAC for more than 15 years and am glad to say that I have always brought back the same number of participants as I have taken! For me, the best part is seeing how the participants develop in confidence and maturity.”



**Jane Hand - Safety and Environmental Manager (Land)**

“I’m a volunteer HM Coastguard Rescue Officer (pictured centre) and can get called at any time to assist people or animals within the coastal zone. The area that I cover is from Gloucester to Clevedon along the Bristol Channel and up the river Avon into Bristol City Centre, but I can get called further away if needed. HM Coastguard is trained in flood rescue, so I’m available to help with inland flooding, too. DE&S allows me

to carry my pager and respond to call-outs from work. This allows the HM Coastguard Rescue Team I’m part of to remain operational throughout the working week. The team specialises in water (swimming) rescue, mud rescue, and search and rescue. I have had the opportunity to attend a variety of rescues, including vessels in distress, medical evacuations, mud rescues, cliff rescues and searches. I’m honoured to be a part of this vital service and being involved in saving a life is a humbling experience.”



**David Flemington – Naval Authority Group**

“I drive as a volunteer for Four Towns and Vale Link Community Transport, which provides community transport services for elderly and disabled people. In the eight years I have been volunteering I have driven more than 20,000 miles for the charity. It has allowed me to meet all sorts of people, while also providing a vital lifeline for the elderly and disabled and combating social isolation and loneliness. I love my job volunteering, as I really feel I can make a difference, and would recommend volunteering to anyone, as it is very rewarding.”



# Strategic enterprise hailed a success

Pictured: Merlin is one of the programmes to benefit from a Strategic Enterprise



An innovative delivery model set up to implement a streamlined and standardised approach to the provision of Technical Support services has been declared a success.

The Strategic Enterprise (SE) has delivered a total of £84 million Private Sector Support savings across 15 platforms, including Typhoon, Tornado, A400M, Merlin and Airseeker. This equates to a 28 per cent saving against the previous baseline across the Air Environment.

Changes to the way requirements are identified and planned have also driven down project management costs and optimised the allocation of resources, which has freed up hours of DE&S effort across all functional areas in a five-year period.

Now, two years after its introduction, Chief of Materiel (Air) Air Marshal Julian Young has declared Full Operating Capability for the flexible delivery model.

SE, developed by the MOD and, initially, QinetiQ, has proved so

successful that it was short-listed for the 2017 Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply awards and went on to win the International Association for Contract & Commercial Management Operational Improvement award.

Team leader Alan Dukes said: “The small part-time team, working across the Air Domain (and now Weapons), have not only dealt with internal delivery teams, but have worked hard with the contractor to develop and improve the offering significantly from its early standard; it now represents an exemplar. It is part of the journey towards a transformed DE&S.”

Beyond the Air Environment, towards the end of 2017, the first Weapons Operating Centre (WOC) delivery team was contracted under the SE approach, and the WOC is now preparing to adopt this way of working for the remainder of its sole-source QinetiQ activities.

The Strategic Enterprise Management Office is a jointly resourced team responsible for ensuring compliance and, through co-working and engendering a collaborative approach, the team has implemented continuous improvement initiatives.

For more information visit: <https://login.qinetiq.r.mil.uk>





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# 60 second spotlight

**"I'm a great lover of superhero films and I always go to the midnight showings when new ones come out. My girlfriend always tells me that I'm obsessed!"**

## Luke Monahan

### Job:

Commercial Officer in the Corporate Commercial Delivery Team

### Your route into DE&S?

I joined DE&S on the commercial apprenticeship scheme after I had finished my A-levels. I decided against going to university as I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. A friend told me that DE&S offered apprenticeship schemes and I decided it was the perfect place to start my career.

### Your claim to fame?

The closest thing I have to a 'claim to fame' was probably meeting Anthony Joshua (pictured). I'm a massive boxing fan and he came to Bristol as part of his victory tour after he defeated Vladimir Klitschko last year, and I received tickets to go and see him as a birthday present! When I got to have my picture with him I couldn't believe how big he is - but he's a really nice and down to earth guy.

### Your advice to anyone?

Treat every moment with people you care about like it could be the last, because it really could be.

### What do you do when you're away from work?

I enjoy spending time with my friends and family and playing football, but I recently got the new 'Xbox one x' for my birthday and I've hardly left it alone since!

### What are you most proud of?

I'm very proud to be working for the Ministry of Defence. Coincidentally, one of my



favourite achievements so far has been placing the contract for advertisements to appear in Desider magazine. It was a complex contract to place because it was a case of DE&S receiving revenue from the advertisements rather than paying money out. However, seeing advertisements appear in Desider every month means that my hard work paid off.

### If you were sent to a desert island, what three things would you take with you?

I think I would take my Golden Retriever Bella because she is lovely and would be great company, my Xbox (of course) and a box set of Brooklyn Nine-Nine, as it's an American police sitcom that I can't stop watching at the moment!

### What irritates you the most?

Either when people don't indicate when they are driving or when they walk very slowly when I'm in a rush to get somewhere!

### What is your favourite place in the world?

I think I'll have to go with Jamaica. My girlfriend and I went in March for two weeks to celebrate our 21st birthdays and we had an amazing time. The Jamaican people are very friendly, the food is delicious and the drinks are in good supply!

### What would surprise people about you?

I'm a great lover of superhero films and I always go to the midnight showings when new ones come out. I think my love of superheroes has stuck with me since I was young and it's something that I've never grown out of. My girlfriend always tells me that I'm obsessed!

**Do you or someone you know deserve their 60 seconds in the spotlight?**

Email  
tom.morris114@mod.gov.uk



# DVD2018

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# Champion spirit is strong amongst DE&S employees



**P**layers from DE&S shone in an emphatic 5-2 victory for the MOD football team, which saw the side finally get their hands on the Lewis Cup – the Civil Service’s annual cup competition.

Jack Fillingham and Kangave Lutwama from DE&S both scored braces with Isaac Reid of the Submarine Delivery Agency, also netting against a strong HAASRA North East side at Highbury Stadium, home of League One club Fleetwood Town.

The MOD football squad, managed by DE&S’ Kevin Wade, featured 13 DE&S players, as well as players from the MOD Guard Service and UK Hydrographic Office.

The team, which is backed by the Defence Sport and Recreation Association, had breezed through the qualifying rounds, and into a semi-final at Fleetwood Towns Training Facilities in Lancashire.

There they recorded a deserved 6-3 victory against a physical Merseyside team, which finished the contest with just nine players.

In the final on May 18, the MOD trailed 2-0 after 20 minutes but a change of formation saw the side level before half-time, with strikes from Fillingham and Lutwama.

Lutwama scored a second to put the MOD in front for the first time, before a goal from Reid and Fillingham’s second put the game beyond doubt.

**D**E&S finance graduates from across the business volunteered at a working farm that provides vocational and employment training opportunities for people with learning disabilities and autism.

The six-strong group went to Elm Tree Farm in Bristol and spent the day learning more about the 47-acre site and working in the market garden; weeding and clearing vegetable beds ready for use.

The farm, managed by the Brandon Trust since 2000, employs more than 50 people with learning

disabilities, helping them gain vital vocational skills and employment training.

It has a variety of livestock on site and grows a wide range of produce, all of which is sold in the on-site farm shop and at farmers’ markets.

DE&S finance graduate Chloe Ferguson said: “Meeting the individuals for whom the farm provides working opportunities and seeing the enjoyment brought to each of them, through being able to contribute and make a difference, was heart-warming. We would all be more than happy to volunteer with the Brandon Trust again in future.”



**M**ore than 100 DE&S employees took part in the Abbey Wood Games to raise money for the Royal British Legion’s Poppy Appeal.

The new event saw 56 teams of two compete to take on a series of exercises, including dead lifts, static cycling, burpees, squat jumps, tyre flips and press ups over a 45-minute period.

Points were awarded for the number of reps completed, with prizes for the best men, mixed and female pairs.

The event was opened by Air Vice Marshal Mike Quigley, Director Safety Environment, Quality and Technology, who said: “It’s great to see so many of you here. This is one of the first events in support of the Royal British Legion, which is a tremendous organisation.”

Gemma Timms, the event’s brainchild, said: “I wanted to organise something a bit different and knew there is a large military contingent at DE&S who can’t resist a competitive challenge.”

The event raised £545. This year DE&S hope to raise more than £20,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

# MOTTO the MOD Lottery March winners

## Kevin goes above and beyond

**D**E&S employee Kevin Cooper travelled 250 miles to re-unite a Royal Naval Ships Ensign with a Second World War veteran who was on board the vessel when it suffered terminal damage.

Frank Watmuff was serving on HMS Salamander, a Halcyon Class Minesweeper, both at the D-Day landings and when the vessel came under attack from friendly fire as it swept the bay at Le Havre on August 27, 1944 – an incident that resulted in the ship being scrapped.

Mr Watmuff, who was awarded the Legion d'Honneur last year, remembers little after the attack, apart from waking up in a Portsmouth hospital. Once declared fit, he resumed service for the rest of the war.

The vessel's Ensign, which had washed up on the French coast, was later presented to Wickham Branch

Royal British Legion in Hampshire by Wickham's twin town of Villers-sur-Mer.

After hearing Frank's son-in-law, John Fickling, had been researching events around HMS Salamander's demise on Frank's behalf, Kevin liaised with Wickham Parish Council and agreed to take the Ensign from Wickham to Frank's home in Bradford.

Kevin, a compliance safety manager at DM Gosport who recently retired, travelled north with his wife Maggie, where they met with Frank, his wife Irene, their daughter Julie and her husband John.

Kevin said: "Frank was full of emotion and when he touched the Ensign there was a feeling that he could remember the event like it was yesterday.

"It's an amazing story and I feel very privileged to have been able to present the Ensign to Frank."

- £10,000 Shirley Paddock, Fareham
- £2,500 Graham Thomas, ABW
- £1,000 Hannah Hemmings, High Wycombe
- £500 Robin Coates, Northallerton
- £250 Kim Henry, Telford
- £100 Karen Snow, Fareham
- Catherine Malcolmson, Hollywood
- Daniel Berry, ABW
- Rickie Gardner, ABW
- James Newman, ABW
- Joseph Cowley, Southam
- Alan Drewery, Plymouth
- Robert Baker, Catterick
- Jonathan Davis, ABW
- Christopher Henson-Ball, Andover
- Lorna Thompson, ABW
- Neil Turner, ABW
- Lee Harrop, Fareham
- Christopher Hanmer, TBC
- Elizabeth Adams, Glasgow
- Helen Brook, Twickenham
- Tracy Staines, Portsmouth
- Trevor Batey, ABW
- John Powell, Warminster
- Clair Parker, Odiham



Last month's missing word below was:

## Royal Navy

## Word Search

- |              |                |              |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Aircraft     | Deliver        | Juno         |
| Acquisition  | Engineer       | Lewis cup    |
| Arctic       | Farm           | Lightning    |
| British Army | Fighter jet    | Poppy        |
| Carrier      | Honours        | Veteran      |
| Ceremony     | Infrastructure | Volunteering |
| Contract     | Innovative     | Wales        |

Find which word or name is missing from this wordsearch

Note- they may appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forward or backward

S A J E R U T C U R T S A R F N I R  
W R I N N O V A T I V E N A R Z P O  
N X E W E D I T E J R E T H G I F K  
O R D Q U L I H D A L R E I R R A C  
I A E P F Y R E E N I G N E B P T O  
T S L O I G W G N I N T H G I L T N  
I V I D E W C E R E M O N Y R D F T  
S E V T M I Y S J G I I G U K N A R  
I T E J T O E A U C P H S N Y G R A  
U E R C L W T R N A P O E T A L C C  
Q R R D I T N Q O J V S L I M E R T  
C A S H O N O U R S I L A P P R I H  
A N F G R I I P U C S I W E L X A B  
E P O P P Y M R A H S I T I R B V F

# Case Study

Jonathan Brooking, an engineering group information manager at DE&S, gives his insight into some of the benefits of working at the organisation.

**Name**

Jonathan Brooking

**Job title:**

DES S&EQT Engineering Group Information Manager

**How long have you worked for DE&S?**

I have worked in the MOD for nearly 36 years – and in DE&S since it formed in 2008.

**Why did you choose to pursue a career in DE&S?**

My father worked in Defence for over 35 years and was a member of the Royal Core of Naval Constructors. I grew up going to Navy Days and with the original ambition to become a Royal Marine – unfortunately a serious accident stopped me enlisting, but joining the MOD seemed a very natural second choice.

**What does your role entail?**

My role is quite varied, which I really enjoy. The majority of my time is spent helping Director Safety, Environment Quality and Technology in his role as Defence Authority for Technical and Quality Assurance. I am also working on changing our approach to Systems Awareness Training to make better use of our MODNET capabilities and I am Function Development Officer for six data scientists who are deployed across the business.

**What are the opportunities to develop and progress within your function?**

One of the best things about the creation of the functions is that I now have a much clearer professional home. The function has done a great

job pulling together communities of interest, linking us into the wider MOD Data Science community and providing opportunities for professional development.

**What do you most enjoy about your job?**

I really enjoy the challenge of my work and the variety of people that I work with.

**What's your ambition?**

I'm reaching the latter stages of my career – my ambition is focussed on the difference I can make. As much as anything it's about using my experience to give something back.

**What's the greatest achievement (in your role) to date?**

The work I've done in the last year to provide analysis and support to the creation of a new Joint Service Publication to improve the management of technical risks.

**Why would you recommend DE&S to others as a great place to work?**

I would highlight three reasons – the levels of responsibility, the variety of opportunities and, most importantly, the interest that DE&S has in the care and development of its people.

**What are the social benefits of working for DE&S?**

There are tangible benefits such as the Defence discount scheme, but the best aspect is flexible working – being able to adapt how, when and where I work to meet my objectives really helps me, as a parent, juggle priorities.







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## Future Vacancies

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### Business Manager DE&S

Bristol | £30,000 - £34,500pa | Professional II

Estimated timeline: July 2018

Post type **Permanent**

**Job Description:** As a Business Manager within our Corporate Service Function you can expect a challenging, broad and varied role which will test your stakeholder management, analytical and managerial skills. The role will stretch your communication skills, problem solving ability, your decision making and management of resources and your strengths in working autonomously.

---

### Data Scientist DE&S

Bristol | £19,000 - £35,000pa | Senior Admin/Specialist

Estimated timeline: September 2018

Post type **Permanent**

**Job Description:** A This role sits within the IM&IT function and is responsible for the assimilation of different types of raw data, the drawing of meaningful conclusions from that data and the presentation of the data in a clear format, in order to reach a wide audience. Keep an eye out on our website for more details of this upcoming post.

---

### Engineering Manager DE&S

Bristol | £42,000 - £52,000pa | Professional I

Estimated timeline: July 2018

Post type **Permanent**

**Job Description:** As an Engineering Manager, you will use your skills and subject matter knowledge to help us ensure that equipment is safe, available and capable of operating in the most demanding environments. Working in assignments across maritime you will take the lead on engineering aspects of projects within Ships or the Submarine Delivery Agency.

---

# WORK FOR DE&S

**For more info and job opportunities visit:**

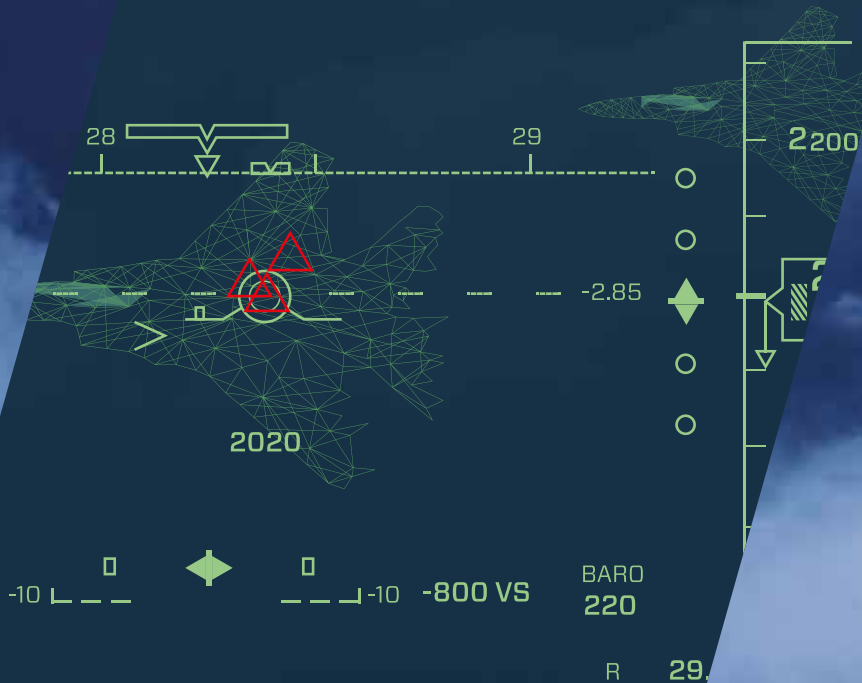
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